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56-3493

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

8-6725

27 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Acting Director

SUBJECT: Medical Benefits for Dependents

1. I have concurred in the attached memorandum from the General Counsel on the assumption, which I have been informed is correct, that a failure to go ahead with medical benefits for dependents at this time would work a hardship on our employees in comparison with Foreign Service personnel in similar situations. Otherwise I would have urged caution in proceeding, as I believe it is unwise to create an obvious opportunity for criticism that we have gone ahead on our own hook to do things which Congress has not as yet approved, and which we did request of them.

2. It seems to me that the case for medical benefits is much stronger than the case for storage of household effects or educational travel, which present the same type of problem with the Congress. Inasmuch as these two benefits were approved some time ago, I see no reason why we should not proceed with the medical benefits, particularly in light of Mr. Houston's prior check with the General Counsel of GAO. I think we should make a clean breast of all this, however, when we appear in support of our legislative requests next session.

S/

Norman S. Paul
Legislative Counsel

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
DD/S (Lloyd) ✓

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Approved For Release 2002/06/27 : CIA-RDP78-04718A002000310022-3

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